

# Approval

board's standard. If it isn't earnestly trying, it might not get its exemption. Then — and only then — it risks being closed down. If it is truly trying, it will get its exemption and stay open.

That system puts the whip where it belongs — in the hand of the public, which has to put up with the pollution. The whip is wielded by the public's servant, the State Board of Health. The system puts the monkey on the back of the polluter, where it belongs.

It's a very good system. And it is wise to enact a standard which will adequately protect plants, persons and property. That the 864 pounds a day standard will do. Wake says that it will confine plant damage to an area up to three miles from the Columbia Falls plant.

It is a goal worth shooting for. And those who spout the implication that this standard might close the plant are deliberately deceiving and scaring the public. The only way the plant could be closed would be if company officials deliberately decided to neglect efforts to find a way to control the plant's fluoride emissions, or if they decided to close it for economic or other non-pollution control reasons.

They know that. They know too that the technology for cutting emissions from vertical pin sod-erberg pots — the kind used at Columbia Falls — is progressing rapidly. Wake says the proposed standard is realistic. We believe him.

The State Board of Health should approve the proposed standard of 864 pounds of fluoride emission a day.